

The Wabash Heritage Trail offers something for everyone. Outdoor enthusiasts, avid hikers, bird watchers and history buffs alike enjoy this scenic 18-mile meandering trail along the banks of the mighty Wabash River.

The trail begins alongside Burnetts Creek at Tippecanoe Battlefield Park in Battle Ground and gently winds its way to the Wabash River. It then follows the Wabash River south into downtown Lafayette at Riehle Plaza, crosses over the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge into Tapawingo Park in West Lafayette, and then southward to Fort Ouiatenon. There are paved trail spurs to N. 9th Street in Lafayette, along the south side of the old Municipal Golf Course, which is part of McAllister Park; to North River Road and Happy Hollow Park in West Lafayette; and to South River Road, along Tapawingo Drive South and south of the railroad tracks and the wastewater treatment plant to Fort Ouiatenon in West Lafayette.

Attractions Along The Way

A list of historical sites located along the trail as well as scenic locations to picnic and rest are provided on the map. Downtown offers numerous dining options and attractions located within steps from the trail.

Trail Conditions & Maps

Trail conditions and maps are available at the Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center at the Tippecanoe Battlefield or by calling 765-567-6218.

What To Wear & Take Along

The trail is accessible and enjoyable every season of the year. If planning a shorter hike of a mile or two, we suggest wearing pants/shorts, a shirt and sneakers. To hike the 13-mile segment directly connecting the Tippecanoe Battlefield and Fort Ouiatenon or other long segments of the 18-mile trail network, you should consider wearing sturdy boots and good socks. In the warmer months, be sure to pack mosquito repellent and a water bottle. There are many places along the trail to enjoy a picnic, so pack your backpack with a camera, picnic lunch and snacks.

Trail Rules & Regulations

Please, no horses, bikes or motorized vehicles on the footpath in the rural sections of the trail. Bicycling is permitted on the 5 1/2 miles of paved trail in Lafayette and West Lafayette. Camping is prohibited along the trail. Protect our natural resources. Don't litter and be kind to the land.

VISIT LAFAYETTE-WEST LAFAYETTE

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WABASH HERITAGE TRAIL

Explore eighteen scenic miles of natural tranquility alongside the Wabash River.



Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. — John Muir

HIKING DOWN THE WABASH HERITAGE TRAIL

1 Tippecanoe Battlefield, Battle Ground: The trail starts at the Tippecanoe Battlefield, where General William Henry Harrison in 1811 defeated Native Americans led by the Prophet. The battle led to the loss of rich Midwestern lands, where Native Americans had lived for millennia, and opened Indiana to settlement. The battlefield also was the site of an 1840 rally that helped launch Harrison's successful bid for the presidency. The 104-acre park has a museum, picnic areas, a nature center, and restrooms. A half mile from the trailhead, there is a bench to rest, located at the crest of a hilly area.

2 Prophet's Rock, Battle Ground: A short loop trail leads to the stone outcropping where the Prophet inspired his men to attack Harrison's camp. According to legend, he claimed the white men's bullets could not hurt them. No one knows how many of the warriors died the next day.

3 Burnetts Creek, Battle Ground: The trailhead begins at Tippecanoe Battlefield and meanders along Burnetts Creek to the Wabash River. The creek was named after Frenchman William Burnett, one of the area's earliest white settlers. He established a trading post between the mouth of the creek and the Tippecanoe River.

4 Davis Ferry Bridge and Park, Lafayette: This iron bridge, built across the Wabash River in 1912, replaced a ferry operation founded by John Davis in 1823. The old bridge was replaced by a modern span to the east and the old bridge is now used as a pedestrian span for Davis Ferry Park. This 13-acre park on the Wabash River includes a boat ramp and easy fishing access. This section of the trail is among the most scenic because it provides panoramic views up and down the Wabash River.

5 Heron Island, Lafayette: This 12-acre wildlife preserve is accessible by boat. It has been set aside as a heron rookery.

6 Rest stop, Lafayette: Two rest stops are located on this stretch, each providing a picnic table and a shady river overlook to enjoy.

7 McAllister Park, Lafayette: The trail runs along the western edge of the course, then along the edge of the city well fields. Although no signs mark the way, the trail follows an access road, then a paved path. A trail loop along the south side of the old golf course connects to the N. 9th Street bikeway. There is a small parking lot with picnic shelters. A model airplane facility is near the trail in McAllister Park. Trail user parking is available at the old golf course and the trailhead just off N. 9th Street.

8 Lyboult Sports Complex, Lafayette: As the trail gets closer to Lafayette, it passes the Lyboult Sports Park which has softball diamonds, horseshoe courts, basketball courts, and restrooms.

9 Riehle Plaza, Lafayette: The trail passes near Riehle Plaza and the restored Big Four Depot. Then it crosses the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge to West Lafayette.

10 Tapawingo Park, West Lafayette: The trail passes through Tapawingo Park both northward and southward from the Pedestrian Bridge: for nearly three miles along North River Road and through Happy Hollow Park to the north and for more than a mile to South River Road via two routes to the south (one route along Tapawingo Drive and the other through the wooded area further south). The footpath segment of the trail continues southward, along the river from Tapawingo Park, for nearly three miles to a short, paved piece of trail along South River Road and into Fort Ouiatenon. Tapawingo Park provides parking and picnic tables.

11 Wabash Heritage Trail Overlook, West Lafayette: (on the Brown Street Bridge abutment). The abutment, built in 1857, can be seen from the trail as it skirts downtown. It was part of the first bridge built over the Wabash River connecting Lafayette with the village of Chauncey (now West Lafayette).

12 Happy Hollow Park, West Lafayette: The trail passes through Happy Hollow Park to Rose Street and to Indian Trail Drive. Happy Hollow Park provides parking, picnic shelters and tables, restrooms and other recreational facilities.

13 Fort Ouiatenon, West Lafayette
34 acre Wabash Riverfront park with picnic areas,
2 shelter houses, grills, restrooms, parking
and boat launch.

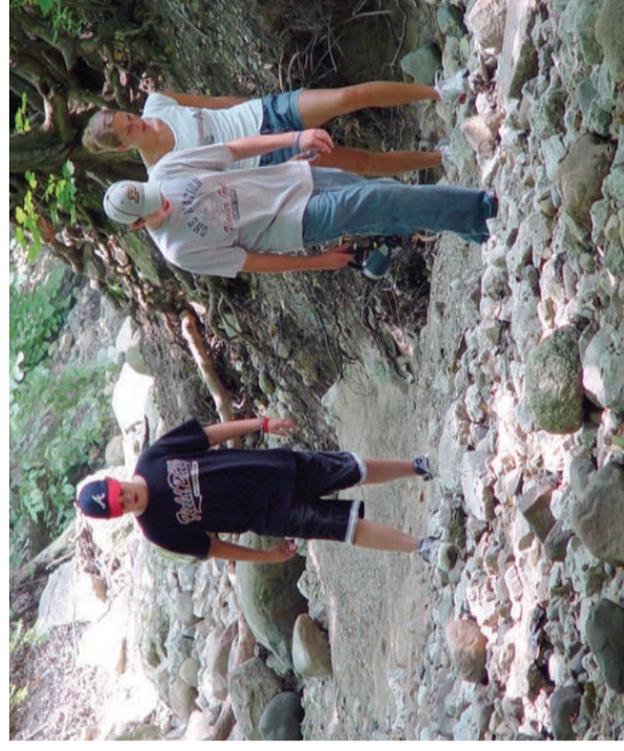
note:

Only the West Lafayette and Lafayette sections of the trail are open to bicyclists, and part of the Lafayette section may only be passable on off road bicycles.

Source: Tippecanoe County, Lafayette and West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Departments. Text by Kevin Cullen and map graphic by Scott Davis of the Journal & Courier



The trail is continually shaded by a canopy of trees including Cottonwoods, Sycamores, Maples, Oaks and more. Wildlife seen and heard throughout the year include: deer, squirrels, chipmunks, beavers, rabbits, raccoons, eagles, heron, great horned owls, ducks and a plethora of native Indiana birds.



The Wabash Heritage Trail is maintained jointly by

Lafayette Parks & Recreation
765-807-1500 • lafayetteparks.org

Tippecanoe County Parks
765-463-2306 • tippecanoe.in.gov

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation
765-775-5110 • westlafayette.in.gov/parks

Parking and Trail Entry

- Davis Ferry Park
- Riehle Plaza
- Tapawingo Park
- McAllister Park
- Fort Ouiatenon
- Happy Hollow Park
- Tippecanoe Battlefield

Boat and Canoe Access

- Davis Ferry Park
- Fort Ouiatenon
- Tapawingo Park (canoe only)

Public Restrooms

- Fort Ouiatenon
- Happy Hollow Park
- Lyboult Sports Complex
- Tippecanoe Battlefield

